

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
WESTERN DIVISION AT DAYTON**

WALTER RAGLIN, :  
Petitioner, : Case No. C-1-00-767  
vs. : Chief Judge Walter H. Rice  
BETTY MITCHELL, Warden, : Magistrate Judge Michael R. Merz  
Respondent. :  
:

**MOTION FOR ORDER PERMITTING ATTORNEY JAMES D. OWEN TO  
WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL FOR PETITIONER**

Petitioner, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3006A(c), and 18 U.S.C. 3599(d), hereby moves this Court to issue an order permitting James D. Owen to withdraw as Petitioner's counsel of record and to substitute the Capital habeas Unit of the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Ohio as his new Trial Counsel for the reasons set forth in the accompanying memorandum.

s/James D. Owen

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James D. Owen (0003525)  
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Trial Attorney for Petitioner

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

On August 15, 2008, Petitioner Walter Raglin filed, *pro se*, a Third Motion for New Counsel. On August 18, 2008, Magistrate Judge Merz issued a Decision and Order denying the motion based in part on the argument that this case “has been fully litigated” in the District Court. (Doc 114). Petitioner is currently represented in District Court by a single lawyer, James D. Owen. Although two other attorneys were initially appointed to represent Petitioner, they withdrew as counsel for Petitioner on June 3, 2002, based in major part on the denial by the District Court of a proposed budget providing for funding for legal representation. Pursuant to Fed. Civ. R. 72(a), Petitioner filed timely objections to the Magistrate Judge’s Decision and Order, and requested that it be set aside.

Under the authority of 18 U.S.C. 3006A(c), and 18 U.S.C. 3599(d), petitioner now requests the District Court to issue an order appointing the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Ohio as Trial Counsel for Petitioner.

The Magistrate Judge issued an order denying the petitioner’s request for replacement counsel on the basis that this case has been fully litigated and is ripe for decision. The magistrate further noted that the new habeas corpus unit of the Federal Public Defender’s is not accepting transferred cases from other counsel in completed litigation.

The Magistrate Judge is simply wrong about the status of this litigation. Objections have been filed, and they have not been ruled upon. In addition, if the District Judge's ruling is adverse to the Petitioner, then additional litigation will be necessary, which could include motions filed pursuant to Fed. Civ. R. 59(e) and Fed. Civ. R. 60, as well as motion in the District Court regarding a certificate of appealability. This is supported by the attached affidavit of Carol A. Wright, the supervising attorney for the Capital Habeas Unit in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Southern District of Ohio. The affidavit shows that this case has not been fully litigated, and that additional litigation will be necessary, which could include motions filed pursuant to Fed. Civ. R. 59(e) and Fed. Civ. R. 60.

Second, as is shown in Ms. Wright's affidavit, there are substantial questions regarding whether Petitioner's current counsel has adequately or fully represented Petitioner in this case. (See Exhibit A, Affidavit of Carol A. Wright, ¶ 7). This includes the question of why his attorney never filed a Motion for an Evidentiary Hearing in this case. For this reason, it is important for Mr. Raglin to have counsel to represent him in the unconcluded litigation.

Third, despite the fact that the ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases requires that "no fewer than two attorneys" should be appointed to represent a Petitioner in a section 2254

federal habeas case. In this case, the Petitioner has only represented by one lawyer since June 3, 2002.

Finally, as is noted in the attached affidavit by the undersigned, there has been a complete breakdown in communication between the Petitioner and his attorney. (See Exhibit B, Affidavit of James D. Owen).

## **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Petitioner requests the Court to issue an order pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3006A(c), and 18 U.S.C. 3599(d) appointing the Capital Habeas Unit in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Southern District of Ohio as counsel for Petitioner.

Respectfully submitted,

s/James D. Owen

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Trial Attorney for Petitioner

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008, served electronically through the Court's ECF System a copy of the foregoing pleading to the following attorneys of record:

Justin Morgan Lovett  
Assistant Ohio Attorney General  
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s/James D. Owen

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